

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 SAM-01 NEAE-00 /091 W

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P R 021740Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4226

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,AG, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: RYDBECK VISIT

REF: ALGIERS 0858 NOTAL

1. FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN ALGIER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA AND POLISARIO AND SAHARA PROVISIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES, RYDBECK TRAVELED TO TINDOUF IN SOUTHWEST ALGERIA WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL APRIL 1. ON APRIL 2, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO ALGIERS, HE MET WITH BOUMEDIENE AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD SECOND MEETING WITH BOUTEFLIKA APRIL 1 OR 2. DURING TINDOUF STAY, HE HAD MEETING WITH POLISARIO SECY GEN EL QOUALI AND SAHARA PROVISIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT OULD ZIOU. RYDBECK'S PRINCIPLE ESCORT OFFICERS DURING HIS TRIP TO TINDOUF WERE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTORS OF UN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. ALGERIANS DID THEIR BEST TO MAKE RYDBECK'S STAY IN TINDOUF A MAJOR MEDIA EVENT. TELEVISION COVERAGE SHOWED
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RYDBECK SURROUNDED BY LARGE CROWDS OF AROUSED REFUGEE

CAMP DEWELLERS, AS WELL AS BY DILIGENT ALGERIAN TV TECHNICIANS WITH MICROPHONES. EL OUALI ALSO USED OCCASION TO DELIVER HIMSELF A STATEMENT CASTIGATING MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA AND DEMANDING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR HIS PEOPLE.

3. RYDBECK WAS CAUTIOUS IN HIS PUBLIC DECLARATIONS, EMPHASIZING THAT IT WOULD BE INDISCREET FOR HIM TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT PRIOR TO SUBMITTING HIS REPORT TO UNSGY. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS HE MADE:

A. VISIT "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" AND GAVE HIM SUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE REPORT TO UNSYG. ONLY REGRET WAS THAT STAY IN ALGERIA TOO SHORT.

B. MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE HAD BEEN "FRANK AND VERY IMPORTANT."

C. NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY IF CONDITIONS STILL DID NOT PERMIT SAHRAOUI TO ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS WAS FOR UNSYG TO JUDGE ON BASIS OF REPORT. (DURING HIS TRIP LAST MONTH TO EL AYOUN, RYDBECK HAD SAID THT CONDITIONS THERE WERE NOT CONDUCIVE TO SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS.)

D. MISSION WAS POLITICAL, AND CONTACTS HAD ESTABLISHED RESPONSIBILITY FOR UN'S ASSISTING IN SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION.

E. WITH RESPECT TO REFUGEES, ED CROSS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN UNHCR REP WOULD VISIT CAMPS IN NEAR FUTURE.

F. PRESS MARCH 31 REPORTED RYDBECK HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER HE CONSIDERED SPAIN TO BE THE ADMINISTERING POWER IN SAHARA AND HE HAD "REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY". NO DIRECT QUOTE GIVEN, HOWEVER.

4. UN RES REP TOLD EMBOFF 1 APRIL THAT RYDBECK MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO AVOID CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SAHRAOUI

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REPUBLIC GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE WAS SEEKING OUT MEMBERS OF FORMER DJEMAA, SOME OF WHOM HE APPARENTLY ENCOUNTERED IN TINDOUF.

5. RYDBECK EXPECTED TO LEAVE ALGIERS APRIL 2 FOR GENEVA WHERE HE SCHEDULED TO HOLD MEETINGS WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES.

6. COMMENT: RYDBECK'S STATEMENT CONCERNING UN'S RESPONSIBILITY
FOR FINDING SOLUTION TO SAHARA
PROBLEM SUGGESTS CONTINUING BELIEF THAT SAHARA FILE NOT
CLOSED.PARKER

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